

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/750,126

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12-31-2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6-30-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MELUR RAMAKRISHNAIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to a system for videoconferencing with a standalone transcapture module over broadband internet connection and through a server or servers providing directory, IP addressing, firmware updating, and automatic downloading services.

The prior art of record in combination or alone fails to teach or suggest these elements of independent claim 1 in combination with other elements. For example independent claim 1 has claim limitations such as a standalone transcapture module to transmit and receive video and audio signals over the broadband internet connection, the module further comprising a video camera capable of recording images, a microphone capable of recording sound, a firmware to operate the module, an IP address associated with the module's broadband internet connection, a directory service protocol to assign a conventional telephone number to an IP address, a protocol to send module firmware version information and request and receive updates to firmware, data memory, and a commercial identification number in the memory during manufacture, a video image monitor having a display screen and connected to the module by visual signal cable, an audio speaker connected to the module by an audio cable, a broadband signal transmission connection between the module and broadband internet connection, a server having broadband internet connection, wherein the server further comprises an address table that maps conventional telephone numbers to IP addresses, a firmware version table, a protocol to receive firmware version information and requests for updates to firmware and send updates when the received request

identifies firmware in need of update, and an automatic commercial download service to map commercial identification number against a direction table and send outgoing information to the module if the commercial identification number relates to the outgoing information on the direction table, wherein the module establishes a connection with the server through the broadband internet connection, and wherein module provides the server with the IP address associated with the module's broadband internet connection and conventional telephone number assigned to the IP address by the directory service protocol, and wherein the module provides the server the module firmware version information and requests updates to firmware when the module firmware is in need of update, and wherein the module provides the server with the commercial identification number, and wherein the server accepts the broadband internet connection with the module, and wherein the server receives the IP address associated with module's broadband internet connection and conventional telephone number assigned to IP address by the directory service protocol, and wherein the server maps the conventional telephone number into IP address associated with the module's broadband internet connection in the address table, and wherein server receives the firmware version information from the module and compares the firmware version against the firmware version table to determine if a firmware update is available, and wherein server sends the firmware update to the module if the firmware update is available, and wherein the server receives the commercial identification number from the module and maps the commercial identification number against the direction table, and wherein the server sends the outgoing information to the module if the commercial identification number

relates to the available outgoing information on the direction table. For the above reasons independent claim is allowable.

2. Claim 1 is allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

--(US2202/0149672A1) to Clapp et al. discloses a modular video conferencing system.

--(JP408263409A) to Wakahara et al. discloses video telephone terminal system to enable automatic download of communication software optimum for hardware and software environments of a terminal.

--(JP410285569A) to Forsberg et al. discloses integrated portable video conference device and method for upgrading its software.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
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